

(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 364 924 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 13.02.2002

(21) Application No 0114105.0

(22) Date of Filing 11.06.2001

(30) Priority Data

(31) 0014092

(32) 10.06.2000

(33) GB

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(51) INT CL⁷

A63B 57/00

(52) UK CL (Edition T)

A6D D11D

G5C CFF

(56) Documents Cited

GB 2048082 A

WO 94/23806 A

FR 002671976 A

JP 050212142 A

US 5186455 A

US 3966214 A

US 3114557 A

(58) Field of Search

UK CL (Edition S) A6D D11D

INT CL⁷ A63B 57/00

Online: EPODOC, WPI, PAJ

(54) Abstract Title

Golf tee.

(57) A golf tee 1 comprises a post 10, a body 25 and a means for releasably fixing said body 25 on or adjacent to at least a longitudinal portion of said post 10. Said body 25 may include an aperture through which the post 10 is received. The fixing means may comprise co-acting means provided on said post 10 and said body 25, and may further comprise a longitudinal threaded portion 15 provided on said post 10, and an internal threaded portion provided on said body 25. The post 10 may include indicia (40, figure 3) or a graticule to assist with the positioning of the body 25 on said post 10. Also disclosed is a support 1 for a golf ball 30 which comprises a post 10 having mounted thereon a flange 25, wherein said flange 25 is movable in a longitudinal direction along said post 10.

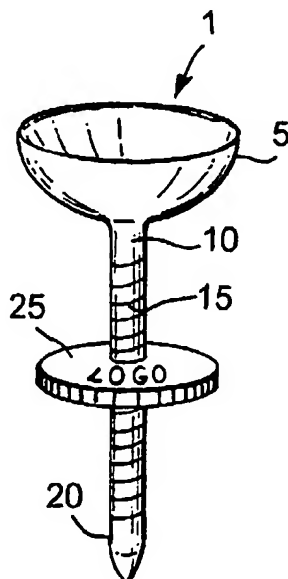


Fig.1

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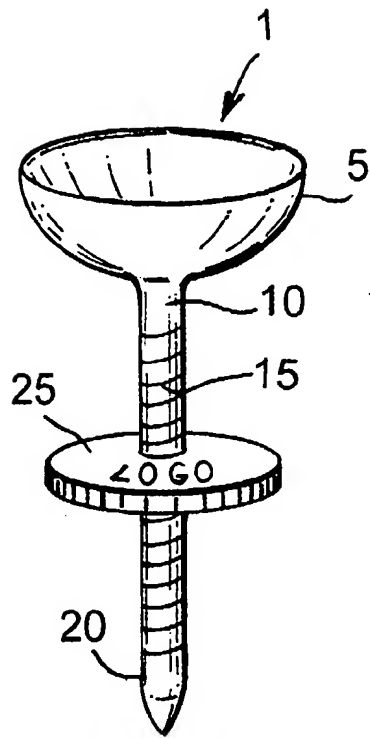


Fig.1

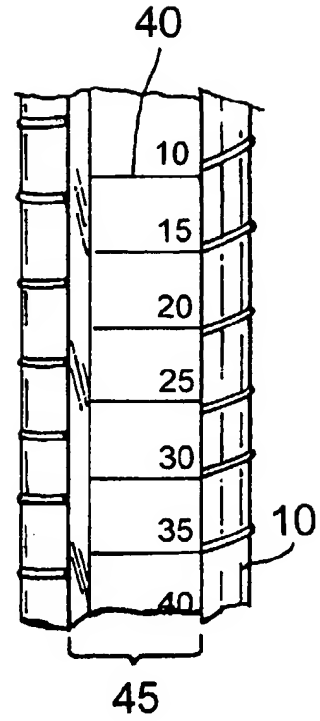


Fig.3

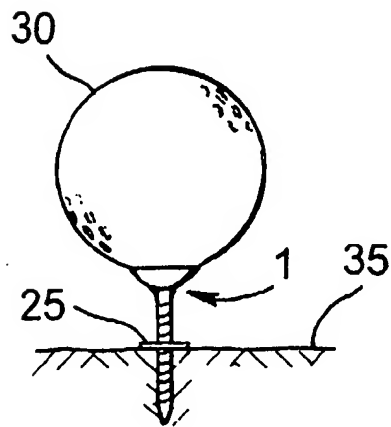


Fig.2

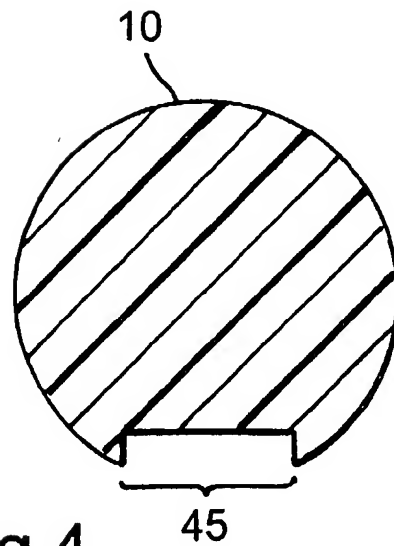


Fig.4

IMPROVED GOLF TEE

The present invention relates to an improved golf tee, and in particular, though not exclusively, to a height adjustable golf tee.

Consistent height selection and adjustment of a golf
5 tee can be difficult to achieve. In particular
inexperienced golfers may need a guide to assist them in
finding a particular height or heights suitable for their
individual play for a particular golf club. Further the
particular height may vary for different clubs.
10 Conventional golf tees may be inserted into a playing
substrate such as turf at many different heights to allow
adjustment such that the golf ball when placed upon the tee
is at a suitable height to be struck by the golf club.
However, this selection of height such that a preferred
15 height is obtained for an individual player is often only
readily obtained after much experience by trial and error
until a player gains a certain "feel", and is able to
consistently place the tee in the turf at his or her
preferred height of play for a particular club.

20 This difficulty has been addressed somewhat with a
number of prior art golf tees having a graduated scale or
markings on a shaft thereof allowing the shaft to be

inserted into the turf until a selected one of the shaft markings corresponds to a level of a surface of the turf. Such positioning can, however, be difficult because the tee may be inserted too far thereby necessitating some withdrawal which destabilises its fixture within the turf. Furthermore the alignment of a particular shaft marking with the turf level may be difficult due to obscurity of the surface by grass leaves or the like.

It is an object of the present invention to obviate or mitigate one or more of the above disadvantages.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a golf tee comprising a post and a body and means for releasably fixing the body on or adjacent to at least one longitudinal portion of the post.

It will be appreciated that herein the term "golf tee" is meant in its broadest sense as a device for supporting a golf ball relative to a playing surface or substrate.

Preferably a first end of the post carries means for supporting a golf ball, for example, an at least partly concave cup, as is known in the art.

Preferably a second end of the shaft is adapted for insertion into a playing substrate, and may comprise a tapered end, as is known in the art.

The body may include an aperture through which the shaft is received.

The fixing means may comprise co-acting means provided on the shaft and the body.

5 The co-acting means may comprise an external longitudinal threaded portion provided on the shaft and an internally threaded portion provided on the body.

 In this way the body may be releasably fixed at a desired position on the shaft by effecting relative
10 rotation of the shaft and body.

The body may be substantially disc shaped.

 The body is preferably substantially the same diameter as the concave cup for example between 80% and 110% of the cup diameter, preferably between 80% and 100% of the cup
15 diameter. This facilitates ease of marking the flange, for example with printing or the like such as a logo. The flange therefore provides display means.

 The shaft may include indicia, a graticule or the like so as to assist positioning of the body on the shaft at one
20 or more predetermined locations.

 According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a support for a golf ball comprising a post having mounted thereon a flange wherein said flange is

movable in a longitudinal direction along said post.

The post may be adapted by any suitable means to hold a golf ball but preferably, the post has one end shaped into a cup to support the ball. An end of the post which is not adapted to support a golf ball is suitably shaped for insertion into a playing substrate such as providing a sharpened end.

The post preferably has a threaded portion so that a cooperatively threaded flange preferably in the form of a collar may be moved longitudinally along the post by axially rotating the collar relative to the post.

It is preferred that the flange or collar has a diameter substantially the same as that of the cup such as 80% to 110% of the cup diameter, preferably 80% to 90% of the cup diameter.

Advantageously, the threaded portion of the post has markings, such as a graduated scale, thereon such that the flange can be substantially reproducibly placed at a predetermined position along the post.

Instead of or in addition to the markings on the post provision may be made to allow the user to apply marks to the post manually once a preferred position or positions for the flange has been found by, for example, using a

marker pen or the like.

The post may be inserted into the substrate to a particular height determined by the position of the flange along the post because the flange acts as a stop to prevent further insertion of the post into the substrate. Advantageously further height adjustments of the post may be made without withdrawing the post from the playing substrate by rotating the post relative to the flange while the post remains inserted in the playing substrate.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the following figures in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an improved golf tee according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side view of the golf tee of Figure 1, in use; and

Figure 3 is a partial side view of a shaft having a graduated scale of a golf tee according to a modified embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a top cross sectional view of the shaft of Figure 3.

As shown in Figure 1, the golf tee 1 has a cup 5 and a post or shaft 10 having a thread 15. The shaft 10 has a

tapered end 20 which allows the tee to be inserted into the playing turf. Collar 25 is threaded onto shaft 10 and can be moved towards the cup end or tapered end of the shaft by rotating it.

5 As shown more clearly in Figure 2, in use, the tee 1 supports a golf ball 30. The tee has been pushed into the turf 35 until it cannot be pushed any further due to the collar 25 preventing further entry by resting on the surface of the turf.

10 Figure 3 shows a scale 40 marked on a recessed portion 45 of the tee shaft 10. This recessed portion 45 is more clearly depicted in Figure 4 which is a top cross sectional view of the tee shaft 10.

CLAIMS

1. A golf tee comprising a post and a body and means for
releasably fixing the body on or adjacent to at least one
5 longitudinal portion of the post.

2. A golf tee as claimed in claim 1, wherein a first end
of the post carries means for supporting a golf ball,
comprising an at least partly concave cup, a second end of
10 the post is adapted for insertion into a playing substrate,
and provides a tapered end.

3. The golf tee according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein
said body includes an aperture through which the post is
15 received.

4. The golf tee according to claims 1 - 3, wherein the
fixing means comprise co-acting means provided on the post
and the body.

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5. The golf tee according to claim 4, wherein the co-
acting means comprise an external longitudinal threaded
portion provided on the post and an internally threaded

portion provided on the body.

6. The golf tee according to any preceding claim, wherein the body is releasably fixed at a desired position on the post by effecting relative rotation of the post and body.

7. The golf tee according to any preceding claim, wherein the shaft includes indicia, or a graticule so as to assist positioning of the body on the post at one or more predetermined locations.

8. A support for a golf ball comprising a post having mounted thereon a flange wherein said flange is movable in a longitudinal direction along said post.

9. The support according to claim 8, wherein the post has one end shaped into a cup to support the golf ball and wherein an end of the post which is not adapted to support the golf ball is suitably shaped for insertion into a playing substrate.

10. The support according to claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the flange is co-operatively threaded with the post and is

moved longitudinally along the post by axially rotating the flange relative to the post.

11. The support according to claim 10, wherein the threaded portion of the post has a graduated scale marked thereon such that the flange can be substantially reproducibly placed at a predetermined position along the post.

12. The support according to claim 10 or claim 11, wherein provision is made to allow a user to apply marks to the post manually once a preferred position or positions for the flange has been found.

13. The support according to any of claims 8 to 12, wherein the flange is provided as a collar.

14. A golf tee as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 and 2.

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15. A golf tee as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 3 and 4.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0114105.0
Claims searched: 1-7

Examiner: David McWhirter
Date of search: 15 November 2001

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.S): A6D (D11D)

Int Cl (Ed.7): A63B 57/00

Other: Online: EPODOC, WPI, PAJ

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2048082 (PLAY-RITE) page 1 lines 103-106	1-4
X	WO 94/23806 (PHIPPS ET AL.) page 3 lines 4-8	1-4
X	US 5186455 (ROSETTA) column 2 lines 55-62	1-4
X	US 3966214 (COLLINS)	1, 5 & 6
X	US 3114557 (CABOT) column 2 lines 31-46	1-4
X	FR 2671976 (WATTELEZ) 31.07.1992 (see Figure 1, and also WPI Abstract Accession No. 92-318265/39)	1-4 & 7
X	JP 050212142 (WANI MOKKO) 24.08.1993 (see Figure 1, and also abstract)	1, 5 & 6

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.
& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
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